



WBCI Accomplishments for 2004

The Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) is well on its way to meeting the goals and objectives outlined within the charter document located at www.wisconsinbirds.org. WBCI represents a unique cooperative partnership of over 145 endorsing members aimed at delivering the full spectrum of bird conservation emphasizing voluntary stewardship. Recent events and accomplishments are highlighted below:

- The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program announced the first two IBAs – Horicon Marsh and the Baraboo Hills.
- The WBCI Small Grants Program received over 60 applications for its small grants, totaling \$270,000 dollars. The Small Grants Program funded 30 different small grants ranging from research to education to habitat restoration.
- WBCI held a very successful annual meeting – over 200 people attended. The focus of the meeting was insuring the return of Wisconsin's Neotropical Migrants. WBCI partners were exposed to a number of ongoing and potential projects that could effect birds both in migration and on their wintering grounds.
- WBCI will be partnering with Illinois and Indiana to identify stopover locations of migratory birds along the western shore of Lake Michigan. Once identified the group will work on ways to create a “network” of stopover sites that these birds depend upon.



- WBCI is coordinating a project with farmers and other private landowners in the Central Wisconsin Grasslands Conservation Area to provide habitat for Greater Prairie-Chickens and other declining grassland bird species. WBCI has provided partial funding for an implementation coordinator that will help coordinate efforts of all groups involved to create grassland habitat and promote a productive, rural economy.
- The WBCI All-bird plan is due to be released late Summer for all interested parties to use. This plan integrates Important Bird Areas, Landscape and site level habitat planning and individual species accounts for every species of greatest conservation need.
- The WBCI Issues committee is set to release its first in a series of issue briefs on a number of important bird conservation issues such as: Wind Power, Cats and Birds, Lead and Birds, etc.
- WBCI is partnering with MNDNR and UMD to create a regional nocturnal owl survey. The survey is set to kick off this spring!

